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wit cuts deep. There is often sound logic in his play upon words, close reasoning in his banter, keen criticism in his caricature, scathing and merited invective in pages brimful of fun and frolic. His mirthfulness is unforced, and is manifestly his special gift, his choicest instrument of usefulness; and we believe it consecrated in his aim and purpose to the highest and holiest ends. We deprecate its exuberance in the pulpit; there are sacred themes which he approaches unbecomingly, with shodden feet and ungloved hands; yet in his own consciousness there is evidently no irreverence, and the effect on his hearers is such as could proceed only from a fervently devout spirit. But in such a volume as we have before us, there is nothing worthy of reprehension, and we must thank him for a rare combination of wit and wisdom, of amusement and instruction.

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20. — *An Historical Research respecting the Opinions of the Founders of the Republic on Negroes as Slaves, as Citizens, and as Soldiers. Read before the Massachusetts Historical Society, August 14, 1862.* By GEORGE LIVERMORE. Boston. 1862. 8vo. pp. 215.

MR. LIVERMORE does thoroughly whatever he does. A more perfectly and beautifully elaborated historical monograph than this has never been issued from the American press. An Introduction opens the question as it stands now, with the extreme Southern opinions as to the chattel and franchiseless condition of the black man, and the strictures of eminent Northern jurists and civilians on these opinions. We have then a full exposition and comparison of Northern and Southern views on the *status* of the negro at the epoch of the Revolution and in the infancy of our Republic, from which it appears conclusively that slavery was by general consent regarded as a temporary necessity, as an evil to be gradually removed, and that universal freedom was looked forward to as the ultimate and permanent condition of our entire population. Then follows the military history of American negroes, from Crispus Attucks, the leader and victim in the attack on the British troops which issued in the Boston Massacre, down to the action of the State of Virginia in securing the freedom of the slaves that had served in the army of the Revolution. It is abundantly proved that the colored race performed faithful service for their country, and were repeatedly recognized as valuable auxiliaries by the commander-in-chief, by numerous officers in the field, and by various legislative bodies. An Appendix records the services of negroes in the navy, in the war of 1812, and under various monarchical governments. The inference which we are left to draw from the entire series of testimonies and doc-

uments is the full and undoubted civic and military competency of the negro race. Mr. Livermore deserves our thanks alike for a faithful record of an important and hitherto neglected chapter of our national history, and for the vindication of the capacity and serviceableness of a despised and oppressed people.

21. — *La Question Americaine dans ses Rapports avec les Mœurs, l'Esclavage, l'Industrie et la Politique.* Par LE CHANOINE DE HAERNE, Membre de la Chambre des Représentants. Bruxelles. 1862. 8vo. pp. 72.

M. DE HAERNE is a member of the Belgian Representative Chamber. He expresses strong sympathy with our republic, on the ground of a close similarity between the Belgian institutions and ours. He writes:—

“ It will not seem out of place to show here, briefly, that, as regards Belgium, the cotton question is not the only one which interests her in the affairs of America. We have close constitutional analogies with the United States. If their institutions should fall, ours would suffer by reaction. We have copied the American Constitution, not only as to municipal and provincial decentralization, as to that of industrial, financial, charitable associations, etc., as to the great liberties of worship, of instruction, and of the press (of which the English charter offered us equally the model); but we have followed America particularly as regards the absence of a state religion, of which Catholic Maryland gave the first example; we have imitated her in the institution of an elective Senate, in that of a House of Representatives identified with the democratic interest. The national Congress voted the Belgian Constitution with their eyes fixed on the American Union. Were we to consult only the interest of Belgium, we ought to desire that the United States should continue to remain what they have been, and to give us the example of union, of the spirit of liberty, and of decentralization,—qualities which characterize the Anglo-Saxon race, with which the Belgians have bonds of relationship and close affinities.” — p. 63.

M. de Haerne presents a rapid, but carefully elaborated, *résumé* of the history and present condition of the slave-power in our republic, with well-arranged statistical tables. He analyzes the alleged grounds of the present rebellion, and refers it primarily to the conflict between the aristocratic and republican tendencies of the two sections of the Union respectively,—tendencies whose dissilience is to be ascribed solely to the moral influence of slavery upon the entire structure of Southern society. He enters somewhat at length into the tariff question, shows the futility of alleged grievances on the score of the protection given to Northern industry, and illustrates the position that